

# HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY

In the same year that the 13 colonies revolted against English rule and signed the Declaration of Independence, the first white men traveled through Wasatch valley. At least, this is the earliest recorded date of any visit by white men through this region. Two Franciscan friars, Francisco Antanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante, the famed Father Escalante who explored Utah, started from Santa Fe for the purpose of discovering a direct route to Monterey, California, site of one of their largest missions. They began their journey in July, 1776.

According to descriptions of their journal, they passed through what is now Colorado. They crossed into what is now Utah near White river. The best interpretation of their journal claims they followed Green river for some distance, crossed over to the Duchesne river and followed probably what was the west fork crossing the mountain at the head of Lake canyon and coming down through Wasatch valley and Provo river to Utah lake.

White trappers undoubtedly traversed the valley in later years, but it was not until 1833, the first Mormons came west, that permanent homes and settlers came to Wasatch valley.

This first settlement in 1838 was sparse, limited to less than half a dozen homes in the lower end of the valley. From the journal of John Crook, self-appointed historian and one of the first men ever to settle here, we learn that William M. Wall, George W. Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels and others brought stock and grazed it in the summer of 1838, and also started the construction of ranch homes. Mr. Crook's journal says: "William M. Wall built a ranch at the south end of the valley. Father Decker bought the valley later known as John Brown's home. Aaron Daniels built a ranch house about two miles north of Daniels, on what later became known as Meeks Bottoms. All of the above parties, I think kept some stock through the winter in the valley."

The journal says Father Decker "bought" a place, which would lead one to believe he did not cause there would have been no places to buy from anyone. Several old settlers agree that Wall and Daniels were the first men to build homes here. Mr.

crook's journal does not make this point entirely clear, and there is little else written on the subject that could be considered authoritative.

While these ranchers were building homes in the summer and fall of 1838, two survey parties of Provo men, headed by J. C. Snow, visited the valley twice, once in July and once in October, and surveyed two tracts in the north and central portions of the valley, dividing them into 20 acre tracts and claiming all the surveyed plots. They did not settle, however, returning to Utah valley that fall. It is recorded that the ice froze half an inch thick in the water cups of the July surveying party one night. The party claimed over 100 tracts before summer's end.

Next year, in the spring of 1839 a group of Provo men, one of whom was Mr. Crook, started for Wasatch valley, then known as Provo valley, to settle there. The party included, besides Mr. Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Carpenter, John Jordan, John Carpentier, James Carline, Mr. Carpentier, whose first name was not designated, Jesse Bond, Henry Chawin and William Giles. On the last day of April they started for the valley, taking their wagons apart and carrying them piece by piece over a huge snowslide in Provo canyon. The next day they traveled to William Wall's ranch and reached it the first day of May, 1839.

Mr. Crook's journal of the trip continues: "Early the next morning we crossed the river and after traveling for about two miles we arrived at Daniels' ranch, where we crossed the creek on ice. We journeyed on about a mile further to Meeks' ranch, turned our teams out to feed and concluded to have breakfast. After breakfast was over, we started out on foot in a northerly direction to look out a suitable place for the location of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek because of the some good land just north of it. So we went to work and staked out twenty acres each as near as drifts of snow which lay in the willows along the banks in a few hours we arrived at the plat of ground designated for a city. In looking around for a good camping place, we concluded to move our wagons next day to what is now known as the London spring branch, or John Mc-

Donald's spring. After moving we built a large pickup of poles, covering it with willows, long wheat grass and dirt. I have known as many as 30 persons crowded in there of a night. Being a mammoth affair, it was christened the London pickup. The moving and building occupied about two days, and I think on the fifth of May, Thomas Rashard and myself, having only one yoke of cattle each, joined our teams and commenced plowing."

Immediately after moving we built John W. Witt, I think, put the first house. Eliza Cox and John Hamilton were not far behind with his house. Others followed suit right along. "The fort was forty rods square, four rods being allowed for each family. William Davidson, one of the first three settlers, built his city lot on the block now occupied by the old tithing office."

Good crops of grain were raised that first summer in 1839, although some was lost in a September storm. Most of it was harvested however. Jesse McCarroll and company brought the first threshing machine from Provo that fall. Settlement spread to the west side of the valley that summer also and farms were established near the mouth of Snake Creek. Peter Shurtis began construction of a saw mill at the mouth of Snake Creek.

"There were," Mr. Crook wrote, "17 families in Heber the winter of 1839-40. There were also some families at Midway."

First Winter Uneventful  
The settlers' first winter was uneventful, as far as major happenings were concerned. December was clear and cold, and everywhere hauled their wood from the canyons.

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(Continued on another page)

Best Wishes  
For A Joyous Season



Again we extend the  
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# Heber Experiences Building Boom During 1940; Looking Ahead to 1941

New building construction and remodeling in Heber City and Wasatch county totaled nearly \$100,000 during the past season, the biggest building year of any during the past ten. This figure was compiled from building estimates and includes 25 new homes and five major remodeling projects.

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Major remodeling included extensive work at the amusement hall, the New Park mine, Titus Bowling alleys, A. D. Baird's "Y" Tavern and Earl Montgomery's service station. These projects totaled approximately \$20,000 bringing the years total building to nearly \$100,000.

Fourteen of the new homes were constructed by Ashtons, as follows: Paul Van Wagoner, Bruce Smith, Bill Turnbow, Douglas Smith, Ernest Ryan, Ray McDougal, Hal Lindsey, Lee Johnson, D. L. Hylton, Walter Harrison, Elizabeth Hamilton and Dr. Karl Nielson in Heber, and Sam Colvitch and Joe Burgenor of Midway. Other new homes built under contract include Bard Mar-dock's by the Turner Building Supply, Farrel Olsen's by Oscar Berg, and Cliff Bond and William Jaspersen's by Q. M. Burdick. Remaining new homes constructed the past season include Lou Neeley, Merrill Murdock, Russell Murray, Rome Turner, Harris Betters and Storm McDonald, the latter being at his ranch north of town.

Ashton's has completed four remodeling projects, as follows: Amusement hall—New heating plant, ornamental ceiling, res-shingling, new dressing rooms, cloak and ticket rooms and a new stage running the full width of the building making it 57 by nine feet. New Park—Remodeling of old boarding house into three modern apartments, two rooms and bath addition to the residence of Manager H. H. Crammer, and interior remodeling and new heating plant to the office building.

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the fort line and a few had built on their city lots.

"In the summer and fall of 1895," the journal continues, "most all the freight teams enroute to Camp Floyd passed through this valley. As they passed by the teamsters would swap old wagon covers, seamless sacks, etc., for vegetables and grain. The material we got in this way furnished us with about all the common wearing apparel we could get in those days, and men, though they were well dressed when they had canvas suits, consisting of pants and jumper, made from an old wagon sheet. What boots and shoes we had, though boots were nearly out of the question, we used to preserve, not in a man's jar but under our arms until we got to the field, when we were glad to preserve our feet in old shoes, for the stubble was too much like pins and needles for our bare feet."

Historian Crook was not without a sense of humor, as proved by the following: "When the soles of our shoes wore out Bro. Jonothan C. would make us some wooden bottoms. Oh! excuse me, I mean soles."

Wild game was plentiful. A herd of 17 antelope skirting the edge of the settlement, a large bear that wandered right into town and was shot, a herd of elk who came down from the hills and all killed by settlement hunters—these among the recollections of those first years in the valley.

The second winter of the settlement, 1860-61, was about the same as the first one. The following summer, their third, plowing began in April, and the amount of grain planted was doubled over the previous season. Families kept coming in from other settlements and were forced to build on city lots, the old fort by now being completely filled with dwellings.

Military District Organized In September, 1861, officers came to Heber and organized it into a military district. J. W. Witt was appointed major and John Hamilton adjutant over the division of militia, with Thomas Todd captain of infantry.

William M. Wall was a great hand for conducting sham fights, we had many a one in the middle of the fort, cavalry against infantry. I remember one time we were having a sham fight, the infantry was charging the cavalry when the horses got frightened and ran across the ditch. Charles Thomas' horse threw him and put his shoulder out of joint and he is still lame in that arm. There was no more sham fighting that day.

During the winter of 1861-62 a home drama association was formed, with Elisha Everett St. manager and John Hamilton, secretary. They used quilts and blankets for wings and scenery. Later they began building a stone hall in which to stage plays, but it was never finished because of friction which developed when some claimed they were building a theater before they built a house of worship. The company continued, however, and gave plays year after year.

"By 1862 our population had increased to near 1,000 souls. Midway had three small settlements. Quite a few families had settled on Center creek, some at Charles-

ton, some in Round Valley and some near Patterson. Indian War Reaches Wasatch The Black Hawk Indian war spread to Wasatch valley in 1866. The three settlements in the west side of the valley merged into one and the name of the town, Midway, resulted. They settled at the middle community and built a fort.

Although no white person was killed or wounded by Indians in this valley during the Black Hawk much stock was driven off, killed and stolen. The threat was always present and only constant vigilance and armed strength prevented blood shed. More than 200 men were organized into active military duty, in two companies of cavalry and four of infantry.

William Wall's cavalry had several brushes with the Indians, and in one skirmish they killed two redskins and wounded several more. Raids on cattle and other stock continued through the summer of 1866 and most of 1867. In August of the latter year, the final peace treaty was signed which ended the war in this valley. It is commemorated by the monument on the statehouse grounds.

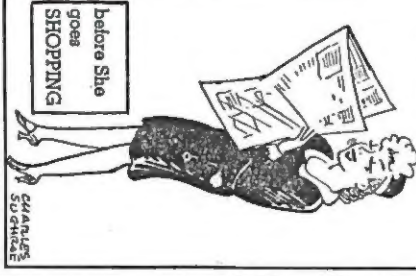
Wasatch county was officially created in 1862 by an act of the state legislature, bounded on the west by the summit of the Wasatch range, on the north by Summit county, on the east by the territorial line and on the south by Sanpete county. John W. Witt was the first probate judge.

The ending of Indian troubles in the valley removed the last serious obstacle to growth, and settlers flocked to the valley in the years that followed. In 1869 the Wasatch Wave was started under editorship of William Briggs, its first issue, on file in the Wave office, was dated March 23.

Heber City grew rapidly, having a population of around 2,000 in the first years of the twentieth century. A predominantly rural

population, with farming and livestock raising as the chief occupations, continued until the mines began to open and employ great numbers of men in the late 1890's. Since then, the mine payroll has been one of the largest and most important in the county. Wasatch county still remains a leading livestock center, however, with dairying making great strides in the past few years. Fine sheep are perhaps the country's best known product, an industry that has been built up from the first days of the valley's settlement. Wasatch county stands today as one of the most prosperous regions in the state, with a diversified livelihood of mining, farming and stockraising.

MR. MERCHANT SEE THAT SHE READS YOUR AD IN THESE COLUMNS



## Heber's First Christmas

One third of Heber's families could not get under the same roof for a banquet today, but they did in 1899 at the first Christmas ever observed here. Six families out of a total of 17 attended a Christmas banquet prepared by Sarah or "Mother" Lee, as she was known to everybody, according to John Crook's journal of early Heber history. Accommodations were small, and it was impossible to invite more. Those invited were Thomas Randall, James and Bessie Carlisle, Charles N. Carroll, John Jordan and Mr. Crook, with their families. The house in which the ban-

quet was held was built on the city lot owned by Ann Howarth, a log cabin about 16 feet square with a bowery on the south front. The event is related in Mr. Crook's journal as follows: "It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining clear and cold, some snow on the ground. Tables were set under the bowery outside. The menu consisted of ground cherry pudding, squash was brought from the lower valley. These were sweetened with beet or carrot syrup. There was no sugar to be had. There were other vegetables and good bread. All supplies were brought from the lower valley, as Brother John

Lee did not raise any crop the first year. "Christmas week was a gay time. After the banquet, a party of young folks arrived, some three or four sleigh loads from Provo City. Most of the young people, especially the boys had been in the valley in the summer and had harvested some grain on Center Creek. There were gay times when they arrived, with dancing and amusements. About New Years they returned home. Then we were left with no mail and no visitors and clear, cold weather prevailed. Snow was about 18 inches deep."



W. D. Ely, Agent Phone 31





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This first settlement in 1858 was sparse, limited to less than half a dozen homes in the lower end of the valley. From the journal of John Crook, self-appointed historian and one of the first men ever to settle here, we learn that William M. Wall, George W. Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels and others brought stock and grazed it in the summer of 1858, and also started the construction of ranch homes. Mr. Crook's journal says: "William M. Wall built a ranch at the south end of the valley. Father Decker bought the valley later known as John Brown's home. Aaron Daniels built a ranch house about two miles north of Daniels, on what later became known as Meeks Bottoms. All of the above parties and Lake Creek because of the drifts of snow which lay in the winter in the valley."

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Crook's journal does not make this point entirely clear, and there is little else written on the subject that could be considered authoritative.

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Next year, in the spring of 1859 a group of Provo men, one of whom was Mr. Crook, started for Wasatch valley, then known as Provo valley, to settle there. The party included, besides Mr. Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Carpen, John Jordan, John Carpen, and John Jordan. Mr. Carpen, whose first name was not designated, Jesse Bond, Henry Chawin and William Giles. On the last day of April they started for the valley, taking their wagons apart and carrying them piece by piece over a huge snowslide in Provo canyon. The next day they traveled to William Wall's ranch and reached it the first day of May, 1859. Mr. Crook's journal of the trip continues:

"Early the next morning we crossed the river and after traveling for about two miles we arrived at Daniels' ranch. We journeyed on about a mile further to Meek's ranch, turned our teams out to feed and concluded to have breakfast. After breakfast was over, we started out on foot in a northerly direction to look out a suitable place for the location of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek because of the some good land just north of it. So we went to work and staked off twenty acres each as near as we could be ascertained by stepping willows along the banks in a few hours we arrived at the plat of ground designated for a city: near the place were John M. Murdock's dwelling house now stands."

When Mr. Crook makes reference to the present tense, it should be remembered his account was compiled and written from his journal for the first issues of the Wasatch Wave, in 1889, and it is from there this is taken.

"In looking north we saw two dark objects moving along; and after gazing intently for some time we saw that they were moving backwards and forwards. The idea struck us that it was some parties plowing, so off we started to follow them. The objects we found our conjectures to be correct. The first man we reached was William Davidson, with two yoke of cattle and plowing on the twenty acres of land now owned by John Turner in the north field. The other team of two yoke of cattle belonged to Robert Broadhead and James Davidson. They were plowing on a piece of ground due east of William Davidson. On inquiry they told us they had been in the valley about two weeks but on account of a big snow storm now plowing had been done until the day before, which was the first day of May. I think this was the first soil turned over with a plow in the valley. These parties had come from Salt Creek or Nephi jub county."

From Mr. Crook's journal, it seems evident that William Wall, Aaron Daniels and William Meeks built the first ranch homes in 1858, and that William Davidson, Robert Broadhead, and James Davis were the first farmers in the valley, coming about the middle of April and turning over the first land although Mr. Crook's party of 10 followed them by only two weeks.

Mr. Crook's journal continues: "They were plowing inside of the one and one-half mile square plat of land surveyed the previous July. This plat of land being already claimed, and our party not feeling desirous of jumping any one's claim, concluded to examine further on up the river. We traveled on about half a mile and found the north line of staked land, and found some good land just north of it. So we went to work and staked off twenty acres each as near as we could be ascertained by stepping willows along the banks in a few hours we arrived at the plat of ground designated for a city: near the place were John M. Murdock's dwelling house now stands."

Donald's spring. After moving we built a large pickup of poles, covering it with willows, long wheat grass and dirt. I have known as many as 30 persons crowded in there of a night. Being a mammoth affair, it was christened the London pickup. Hence the name London Spring. The moving and building occupied about two days, and I think on the fifth of May, Thomas Rasband and myself, having only one yoke of cattle each, joined our teams and commenced plowing."

The party of 10 was predominantly English, hence the name London creek and London spring. It runs today about two miles north of town. The area was also known as New London by many settlers. Daughters Named Timpunog. The family of William Davidson was believed to be the first son to settle in the valley. His daughter after he named Timpunog after the mountain, was the first white child born in the valley.

Immediately and commenced to build. John W. Whit, I think, put the first house. Elias Cox and John Hamilton were not far behind with his house. Others followed suit right along.

The fort was forty rods square, four rods being allowed for each family. William Davidson, one of the first three settlers, built his city lot on the block now occupied by the old tithing office. Good crops of grain were raised that first summer in 1859, although some was lost in a September storm. Most of it was harvested, however. Jesse McCarrall and company brought the first threshing machine from Provo that fall. Settlement spread to the west side of the valley that summer also and farms were established near the mouth of Snake Creek. Peter Shurtis began construction of a saw mill at the mouth of Snake Creek.

"There were," Mr. Crook wrote, "17 families in Heber the winter of 1859-60. There were also some families at Midway."

First Winter Uneventful. The settlers' first winter was uneventful as far as major happenings were concerned. December was clear and cold, and everywhere hauled their wood from the canyons.

"Some boys and girls came up from Provo Christmas week on a visit and had a good time," Mr. Crook wrote. "When they returned we felt lonesome. About 18 inches of snow lay on the ground that winter. During the winter months William Meeks and other men went up Center Creek canyon and brought out timber for sawmill. They began sawing in the fall of 1860, and Mr. Crook claims this was the first sawmill in the valley. Mr. Shurtis later completed his mill at Snake Creek and was the second mill in operation.

year, and ripened earlier in the season. The settlers built a double log house, 20 by 40 feet, with a dirt roof, which they used for a meeting house and school. It was completed enough to hold their Pioneer Day celebration in it on July 24.

William Meeks, who has served as presiding elder until now, resigned in the fall of 1860 and placed him. He was herding cattle in Round valley, later known as Wallburg, and came to Heber to accept the position. He chose James Laird and John M. Murdock as his counselors.

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Fourteen of the new homes were constructed by Ashtons, as follows: Paul Van Wagoner, Bruce Smith, Bill Turnbow, Douglas Smith, Ernest Ryan, Ray McDonaid, Hal Lindsey, Lee Johnson, D. L. Hyllon, Walter Harrison, Elizabeth Hamilton and Dr. Karl Nelson in Heber, and Sam Colovitch and Joe Burgenier of Midway. Other new homes built under contract include Bard Murdock's by the Turner Building Supply, Farrell Olsen's by Oscar Berg, and Cliff Bond and William Jasperson's by G. M. Burdick. Remaining new homes constructed the past season include Lou Nealey, Merrill Murdock, Russell Murray, Home Turner, Harris Belners and Storm McDonald, the latter being at his ranch north of town.

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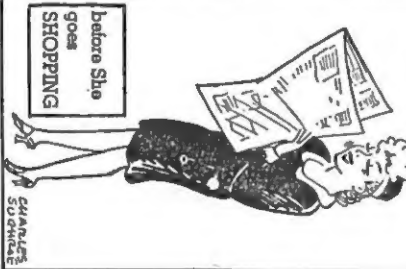
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**CH. Rio Grande CHRISTMAS**

that the ROCKIES and all around them.

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According to descriptions of their journal, they passed through what is now Colorado. They crossed into what is now Utah near White river. The best interpretation of their journal claims they followed Green river for some distance, crossed over to the Duchesne river and followed probably what was the west fork crossing the mountain at the head of Lake canyon and coming down through Wasatch valley and Provo river to Utah lake.

White trappers undoubtedly traversed the valley in later years, but it was not until 1838, less than a dozen years after the first Mormons came west, that permanent homes and settlers came to Wasatch valley.

This first settlement in 1838 was sparse, limited to less than half a dozen homes in the lower end of the valley. From the journal of John Crook, self-appointed historian and one of the first men ever to settle here, we learn that William M. Wall, George W. Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels and others brought stock and grazed it in the summer of 1838, and also started the construction of ranch homes. Mr. Crook's journal says: "William M. Wall built a ranch at the south end of the valley. Father Decker bought the valley, later known as John Brown's home. Aaron Daniels built a ranch house about two miles north of Daniels, on what later became known as Meeks Bottoms. All of the above parties I think kept some stock through the winter in the valley."

The journal says Father Decker "thought" a place, which would lead one to believe he did not settle that first year of 1838 because there would have been no places to buy from anyone. Several old settlers agree that Wall Meeks and Daniels were the first men to build homes here. Mr.

Crook's journal does not make this point entirely clear, and there is little else written on the subject that could be considered authoritative.

While these ranchers were building homes in the summer and fall of 1838, two survey parties of Provo men, headed by J. C. Snow, visited the valley twice, one in July and once in October, and surveyed two tracts in the north and central portions of the valley, dividing them into 20 acre tracts and claiming all the surveyed plots. They did not serve, however, returning to Utah valley that fall. It is recorded that the ice froze half an inch thick in the water cups of the July surveying party one night. The party claimed over 100 tracts before summer's end.

Next year, in the spring of 1839 a group of Provo men, one of whom was Mr. Crook, started for Wasatch valley, then known as Provo valley, to settle there. The party included besides Mr. Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Carpen, John Jordan, John Carpen, St. James Carlie, was not designated, Jesse Bond, Henry Chavin and William Giles. On the last day of April they started for the valley, taking their wagons apart and carrying them piece by piece over a huge snowslide in Provo canyon. The next day they traveled to William Wall's ranch and reached it the first day of May, 1839.

Mr. Crook's journal of the trip continues: "Early the next morning we crossed the river and after traveling for about two miles we arrived at Daniels' ranch, where we crossed the creek on ice. We journeyed on about a mile further to the Meeks ranch, turned our teams out to feed and concluded to have breakfast. After breakfast was over, we started out on foot in a northerly direction to look out a suitable place for the location of our camp. We found it very difficult to cross Center Creek and Lake Creek because of the drifts of snow which lay in the willows along the banks. In a few hours we arrived at a place of ground designated for a city. The place was near John M. Murdocks' dwelling house now stands."

When Mr. Crook makes reference to the present tense, it should be remembered his account was compiled and written from his journal for the first issues of the Wasatch Way, in 1889, and it is from there this is taken.

First Soil Turned

"In looking north we saw two dark objects moving along and after getting intensely for some time we saw that they were moving backward and forward. The idea struck us that it was some parties plowing, so off we started to fathom the problem: in drawing near to the objects we found our conjectures to be correct. The first man we rescued was William Davidson, with two yokes of cattle and plowing the twenty acres of land now owned by John Turner in the north field. The other team of yokes of cattle belonged to Robert Broadhead and James Davidson. On inquiry they told us they had been in the valley about two weeks, but on account of a big snow storm now plowing had been done until the day of May. I think this was the first soil turned over with a plow in the valley. These parties had come from Salt Creek or Neph-Jab county."

From Mr. Crook's journal, it seems evident that William Meeks, Aaron Daniels and William Wall built the first ranch homes in 1839, and that William Davidson, Robert Broadhead and James Davis were the first farmers in the valley, coming about the middle of April and turning over the first land although Mr. Crook's party of 10 followed them by only two weeks.

Mr. Crook's journal continues: "They were plowing inside of the one and one-half mile square plot of land surveyed the previous July. This plot of land and part of the surrounding country were being plowed, and our party was not feeling desirous of jumping any one's claim, concluded to examine further on up the river. We traveled on about half a mile and found the north line of some good land just north of it. So we went to work and staked off twenty acres each as near as could be ascertained by stepping off the ground, and concluded to commence plowing immediately. In looking around for a good camping place, we concluded to move our wagons next day, to the place now known as the London spring branch, or John Mc-

Donald's spring. After moving we built a large wickup of poles, covering it with willows, long wheat grass and dirt. I have known as many as 30 persons crowded in there of a night. Being a mammoth affair, it was christened the London wickup. The moving and building occupied about two days, and I think on the fifth of May, Thomas Raabard and myself, having only one yoke of cattle each, joined our teams and commenced plowing."

The party of 10 was predominantly English, hence the name London creek and London spring. It runs today about two miles north of town. The area was also known as New London by many settlers.

Daughter Named Timpanogos

The family of William Davidson was believed to be the first son to settle in the valley. His daughter which he named "Timpanogos" after the mountain, was of 1839-40. There were also some families at Midway."

First Winter Uneventful

The settlers' first winter was uneventful as far as major happenings were concerned. December was clear and cold, and every one hauled their wood from the canyons.

"Some boys and girls came up from Provo Christmas week on a visit and had a good time," Mr. Crook wrote. "When they returned we felt lonesome."

About 18 inches of snow lay on the ground that winter. During the winter months William Meeks and other men went up Center Creek canyon and brought out lumber for sawmill. They began sawing in the fall of 1840, and Mr. Crook claims this was the first sawmill in the valley. Mr. Shirts later completed his mill at Snake Creek and was the second mill in operation.

"About the middle of March, 1840, a number of families arrived from Provo, among whom were Zerita Palmer, T. G. Giles, George Giles, Frederick Giles, Jonathan Carlie, Jesse Bond, Jonathan Cleff and others whom I do not remember. Parties kept arriving all the month from Utah county, and by the first of April there were about 40 teams plowing in the north field and Center Creek."

The second summer of the settlement, 1840, saw good fortune with them. Crops were good, more than doubling the previous

year, and ripened earlier in the season. The settlers built a double log house, 20 by 40 feet, with a dirt roof, which they used for a meeting house and school. It was completed enough to hold their Pioneer Day celebration in it on July 24.

William Meeks, who has served as presiding elder until now, resigned in the fall of 1840 and William Wall was chosen to replace him. He was herding cattle in Round valley, later known as Wallburg, and came to Heber to accept the position. He chose James Laird and John M. Mur-

(Continued on another page)

Best Wishes  
For A Joyous Season

Again we extend the  
Season's Greetings to  
each of you. May this  
Christmas be your most  
prosperous.

Clarence Olson



# Heber Experiences Building Boom During 1940; Looking Ahead to 1941

New building construction and remodeling in Heber City and Wasatch county totaled nearly \$100,000 during the past season, the biggest building year of any during the past ten. This figure was compiled from building estimates and includes 25 new homes and five major remodeling projects.

New home construction totaled approximately \$75,000 during the past season, with one home, that of Willis Clyde at 4½ East 1st North yet unfinished. He is building a frame home with basement.

Major remodeling included extensive work at the amusement hall, the New Park mine, Titus Bowling alleys, A. D. Baird's "Y" Tavern and Earl Montgomery's service station. These projects totaled approximately \$20,000 bringing the years total building to nearly \$100,000.

Fourteen of the new homes were constructed by Ashtons', as follows: Paul Van Wagoner, Bruce Smith, Bill Turnbow, Douglas Smith, Ernest Ryan, Ray McDonald, Hal Lindsay, Lee Johnson, D. L. Hylton, Walter Harrison, Elizabeth Hamilton and Dr. Karl Nielson in Heber, and Sam Colovitch and Joe Burgener of Midway. Other new homes built under contract include Bard Murdock's by the Turner Building Supply, Farrel Olsen's by Oscar Berg, and Cliff Bond and William Jasperson's by Q. M. Burdick. Remaining new homes constructed the past season include Lou Neeley, Merrill Murdock, Russell Murray, Rone Turner, Harris Bethers and Storm McDonald, the latter being at his ranch north of town.

Ashton's has completed four remodeling projects, as follows: Amusement hall—New heating plant, ornamental ceiling, re-shingling, new dressing rooms, cloak and ticket rooms and a new stage running the full width of the building making it 57 by nine feet. New Park—Remodeling of old boarding house into three modern apartments, two rooms and bath addition to the residence of Manager H. H. Cranmer, and interior remodeling and new heating plant to the office building.

Mr. Baird built a substantial addition to his "Y" Tavern and the Titus Bowling alleys were converted into completely modern bowling establishment.

In the other major remodeling job of the year, Mr. Montgomery

Wild game was plentiful. A herd of 17 antelope skirting the edge of the settlement, a large bear that wandered right into town and was shot, a herd of elk who came down from the hills and were trapped in the snow and all killed by settlement hunters—these among the recollections of those first years in the valley.

The second winter of the settlement, 1860-61, was about the same as the first one. The following summer, their third, plowing began in April, and the amount of grain planted was doubled over the previous season. Families kept coming in from other settlements and were forced to build on city lots, the old fort by now being completely filled with dwellings.

## Military District Organized

In September, 1861, officers came to Heber and organized it into a military district. J. W. Witt was appointed major and John Hamilton adjutant over the division of militia, with Thomas Todd captain of infantry.

"William M. Wall was a great hand for conducting sham fights, we had many a one in the middle of the fort, cavalry against infantry. I remember one time we were having a sham fight, the infantry was charging the cavalry when the horses got frightened and ran across the ditch, Charles Thomas' horse threw him and put his shoulder out of joint and he is still lame in that arm. There was no more sham fighting that day."

During the winter of 1861-62 a home drama association was formed, with Elisha Everett Sr. manager and John Hamilton, secretary. They used quilts and blankets for wings and scenery. Later they began building a stone hall in which to stage plays, but it was never finished because of friction which developed when some claimed they were building a theater before they built a house of worship. The company continued, however, and gave plays year after year.

"By 1862 our population had increased to near 1,000 souls. Midway had three small settlements. Quite a few families had settled on Center creek, some at Charles-

ton, some in Round Valley and some up at Hailstone."

## Indian War Reaches Wasatch

The Black Hawk Indian war spread to Wasatch valley in 1866. The three settlements in the west side of the valley merged into one and the name of the town, Midway, resulted. They settled at the middle community and built a fort.

Although no white person was killed or wounded by Indians in this valley during the Black Hawk much stock was driven off, killed and stolen. The threat was always present and only constant vigilance and armed strength prevented blood shed. More than 250 men were organized into active military duty, in two companies of cavalry and four of infantry. William Wall's cavalry had several brushes with the Indians, and in one skirmish they killed two redskins and wounded several more. Raids on cattle and other stock continued through the summer of 1866 and most of 1867. In August of the latter year, the final peace treaty was signed which ended the war in this valley. It is commemorated by the monument on the stakehouse grounds.

Wasatch county was officially created in 1862 by an act of the state legislature, bounded on the west by the summit of the Wasatch range, on the north by Summit county, on the east by the territorial line and on the south by Sanpete county. John W. Witt was the first probate judge.

The ending of Indian troupes in the valley removed the last serious obstacle to growth, and settlers flocked to the valley in the years that followed. In 1889, the Wasatch Wave was started under editorship of William Buys. Its first issue, on file in the Wave office, was dated March 23.

Heber City grew rapidly, having a population of around 2,000 in the first years of the twentieth century. A predominantly rural

population, with farming and live stock raising as the chief occupations, continued until the mines began to open and employ great numbers of men in the late 1920's. Since then, the mine payroll has been one of the largest and most important in the county. Wasatch county still remains a leading livestock center, however, with dairying making great strides in the past few years. Fine sheep are perhaps the county's best known product, an industry that has been built up from the first days of the valley's settlement.

Wasatch county stands today as one of the most prosperous regions in the state, with a diversified livelihood of mining, farming and stockraising.

**MR. MERCHANT**  
SEE THAT SHE  
READS YOUR AD  
IN THESE COLUMNS



## Heber's First Christmas

One third of Heber's families could not get under the same roof for a banquet today, but they did in 1859 at the first Christmas ever observed here.

Six families out of a total of 17 attended a Christmas banquet prepared by Sarah, or "Mother" Lee, as she was known to everyone, according to John Crook's journal of early Heber history. Accommodations were small, and it was impossible to invite more. Those invited were Thomas Rasband, James and Bessie Carlile, Charles N. Carroll, John Jordan and Mr. Crook, with their families. The house in which the ban-

quet was held was built on the city lot owned by Ann Howarth, a log cabin about 16 feet square with a bowery on the south front.

The event is related in Mr. Crook's journal as follows: "It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining clear and cold, some snow on the ground. Tables were set under the bowery outside. The menu consisted of ground cherry pudding, squash was brought from the lower valley. These were sweetened with beet or carrot syrup. There was no sugar to be had. There were other vegetables and good bread. All supplies were brought from the lower valley, as Brother John

and had harvested some grain on Center Creek. There were gay times when they arrived, with dancing and amusements. About New Years they returned home. Then we were left with no mail and no visitors and clear, cold weather prevailed. Snow was about 18 inches deep."



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